

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, 7, 10-15, 17, 20-24 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claims 1, 12, and 22-24 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 5, 10, 12, 15, 20 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,695,695 ("Angel").

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 2-4, 7, 13-14 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,695,695 ("Angel") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,439,995 ("Hughs-Baird").

Interview Summary

The Applicant notes with appreciation the interview conducted with Examiners Wong and Hotaling on May 7, 2008. In the Interview, applicant reviewed the features of proposed amended claim 1 in comparison with Angel. The Examiners indicated that the proposed amended claim 1 was distinguishable over Angel.

Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended claims 1, 12 and 22 to include the elements of "accumulating the awards in a credit meter" and "after revealing the one or more awards, continuing to display the selected objects and their associated awards intermingled with the unselected selectable objects in the first display image." The claims have been amended to require that the second display image that no longer intermingles the objects with at least some of the objects being relocated from the first display image to new locations in the second display image. These elements are similar or identical to amended claim 1 that was discussed during the interview and which the Examiners acknowledged distinguished over Angel.

As explained in the interview, Angel discloses a second display image that segregates the objects previously intermingled in the first display. Further Angel does not disclose that at least some of the objects are relocated from the first image. As discussed, the cards in Angel whether selected or unselected stay in the same locations and remain intermingled. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 12 and 22 and their dependents are allowable.

Similarly, Applicant has amended claim 23 to require that awards associated with the selected objects are revealed in the first display image and that the selected objects are grouped in a first region with the location of the same selectable object changing between the first and second display images. In Angel, the selected cards are revealed in the same display image (card table shown in Figs. 6-8). Further, in Angel, the selected cards (cards belonging to the player image 60) do not change locations between any of the images at any phase of the game as shown in Figs. 6-8. Finally, amended claim 23 requires that unselected objects are moved to another region and the unselected objects are moved to a different location from the first in the second image. In Angel, the unselected cards (those belonging to the other player images) remain in the same region and do not change locations. Amended claim 23 is therefore allowable over Angel.

Amended claim 24 is also allowable over Angel. Angel does not disclose a second display image distinct from the first display image as the display images in Angel are the same environment (card table). Further, claim 24 has been amended to require that objects that are intermingled in the first display image are presented in two distinct regions and not intermingled in the second display image. In Angel, the selectable objects (cards) are always segregated in hands in the same region (see Figs. 6-8) and therefore are not intermingled in one image and not intermingled in another image. Amended claim 24 is therefore allowable over Angel.

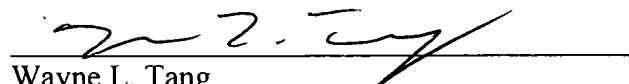
Conclusion

It is Applicant's belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and actions towards that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 29, 2008


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